



Important Information

- Not all telephone providers in South Dakota offer the Tribal Lifeline and Tribal Link Up discounts.
- Tribal Lifeline is available on only one line per household. A household is defined as any individual or group of individuals living together at the same address as one economic unit. An "economic unit" consists of all adult individuals contributing to and sharing in the income and expenses of a household. A household may include related and unrelated persons.
- Tribal Lifeline and Tribal Link Up discounts cannot be applied to past due telephone bills.
- It can take up to two months for the discounts to show up on your bill as a credit. You must pay the bill until that time.
- Tribal Link Up will not cover the cost of a phone or wiring your home.
- You must notify the telephone company when you no longer qualify for the program.
- Once you are on Tribal Lifeline, you may be required to re-certify your continued eligibility for Tribal Lifeline at any time. If you do not re-certify, the phone company is required to stop the discounts.
- Tribal Lifeline is a government assistance program and the service is non-transferable.

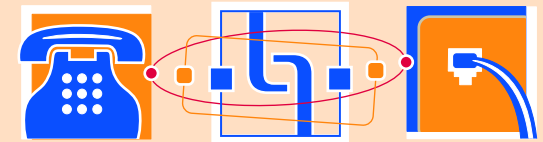
The Tribal Lifeline and Tribal Link Up assistance programs make affordable telephone service available to qualifying South Dakotans living on tribal lands.

Even if you don't qualify for Tribal Lifeline or Tribal Link Up, chances are you know someone who does. Think about your family, neighbors and friends. Receiving a discount on local phone service might make a big difference in their life, especially if they are managing expenses on a limited income. Having affordable telephone service will give them – and you – peace of mind by knowing they can stay connected with a doctor's office, their child's school or emergency assistance when needed. Share this information about Tribal Lifeline and Tribal Link Up.

Telephone Assistance Programs in Indian Country

Tribal Lifeline and Tribal Link Up

connect for less



South Dakota
Public Utilities Commission

*Photography provided by South Dakota Tourism
100 copies of this brochure were printed by the South
Dakota Public Utilities Commission at a cost of .17 each*

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
500 E. CAPITOL AVE. • PIERRE, SD 57501
www.puc.sd.gov • 1-800-332-1782

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

Staying connected to family, friends and businesses is an important part of life. Having access to affordable telephone service for your home makes staying connected easier.

If you live on tribal lands and meet specific requirements, you may qualify for two special programs – Tribal Lifeline and Tribal Link Up – that help reduce the cost of telephone service so you can connect for less.

- **Tribal Lifeline** helps you save up to \$34.25 on your monthly phone bill. The discount applies to wireline or wireless residential telephone service plans and is limited to one line per household.
- **Tribal Link Up** provides a one-time discount for the connection or activation charge for new telephone service at the applicant's primary residence. The discount is a 100 percent reduction, up to \$100, of the customary charge to initiate telecommunications service. Tribal Link Up also allows you to pay any remaining amount owed on initiation of service (up to \$200) on a deferred schedule, interest-free.

You can also sign up for toll blocking or toll limitation service that either blocks or limits long-distance calls from your phone.



These programs are available to individuals who reside on tribal lands and meet the eligibility requirements listed to the right.

Tribal lands are defined as any federally-recognized Indian tribe's reservation, pueblo or colony; Indian Allotments; and areas that fall outside the boundaries of existing Tribal lands but have been designated by the Federal Communications Commission as Tribal lands for the purpose of receiving Tribal Lifeline and Tribal Link Up support.

Contact your local telephone company to apply for Tribal Lifeline and Tribal Link Up. You can also contact the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission for information by calling 1-800-332-1782 or going to www.puc.sd.gov/lifeline on the Internet.



Tribal Lifeline and Tribal Link Up have eligibility requirements. You may qualify if you, one or more of your dependents, or your household participates in **any** of the following programs:

- Medicaid (example, Title XIX/Medical State Supplemental Assistance)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as food stamps)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- National School Lunch Program's Free Lunch Program
- Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance
- Tribally-Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TTANF)
- Head Start (if income eligibility criteria are met)
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations

You may also qualify if your household income is no more than 135 percent of the federal poverty income guidelines (see guidelines at www.puc.sd.gov/lifeline).

